FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 AUGUST 1986

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that 74 Iraqi civilians were killed and 140 were injured when Iranian artillery shelled a housing complex in the Halabjah district of Al-Sulaymaniyah 6 August. The communique stressed that Iraq would retaliate "in a just and legitimate manner at the appropriate time." Iraqi warplanes bombed industrial centers and nearby residential areas in Isfahan the following day, injuring a number of civilians, according to IRNA, which added that one of the Iraqi planes was downed by Iranian antiaircraft fire. An Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses confirmed the raids on targets in the Isfahan area, announcing that Iraqi aircraft hit the Isfahan oil refinery and three power stations. The communique also reported two Iraqi air raids on Khark Island 7 August. Iraqi aircraft had raided Khark Island and the Ganaveh oil terminal 6 August, according to an earlier communique reported by the radio.

Meanwhile, the Iranian oil minister said that Iraqi oil installations are within range of Iranian artillery, and that Iran can prevent Iraq from violating the recently announced OPEC agreement, IRNA reported.

Egyptian-Jordanian Summit

An Egyptian official source cited by Cairo radio disclosed that the Iran-Iraq war topped the list of issues discussed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn during their 6 August talks in Alexandria. The two leaders fully agreed on the importance of solidarity with Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn in its resistance to Iran's "aggressive" policy and in its insistence on ending the war, the source added. Mubarak and Husayn also discussed latest developments in light of U.S. Vice President George Bush's tour, the radio said. Cairo sources stated earlier that the talks would cover the possibility of establishing bridges between Egypt and Syria, noting Bush's emphasis on the need for a Syrian role in the peace process, according to WAKH.

Egyptian-Israeli Relations

The Israeli delegation to the Taba talks will meet President Mubarak the evening of 7 August, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that no real progress was made in the negotiations that morning as differences persist on how the map should be drawn for the arbitration process. However, the two sides made "additional progress" in the negotiations the previous day, agreeing that the arbitration process will take no longer than 18 months, according to IDF radio.

Syria

Syria's missiles can strike "any city" deep inside enemy territory "and which the enemies think is outside the range of our weapons," Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm stated in a 5 August address to students reported by Damascus television. Syria is "expecting aggression at any moment," he said, but it is ready to respond immediately. He asserted that Syria is prepared to confront the "economic plots, rumors, and speculations" prepared by its enemies, adding that the government and Ba'th Party will "lie in wait" for those who are hindering the country's progress by spreading "manifestations of luxury, pomposity, delinquency, violation of values, and waste."

PLO

Talks held in Moscow between Palestinian groups achieved "positive" results, KUNA reported. A DFLP statement cited the Fatah leadership as saying that the Amman accord between Jordan and the PLO will not impede the achievement of Palestinian unity, according to the agency, which added that Palestinian representatives met with CPSU Central Committee members and USSR Foreign Ministry officials. Elsewhere, a PLO spokesman claimed that a Palestinian unit planted explosives inside an Israeli "intelligence center" in Tel Aviv 4 August, starting a "huge fire," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Jerusalem radio had reported a fire in a Tel Aviv suburb that day.

YAR-Libya

The YAR foreign minister received his Libyan counterpart in Sanaa, according to JANA, which added that their talks focused on bilateral relations, the results of YAR-PDRY unity talks held earlier this year in Tripoli, the current Arab situation, the Palestinian issue, and international issues of mutual interest.

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South Asia

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Women's Body Holds 6th Plenum; Elects Officials
LD062052 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Excerpts] The Sixth Democratic Women of Afghanistan [DWOA] Central Committee Plenum was convened today at the Delkosha Palace, the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

At this plenum, organizational issues and the future duties of the DWOA were discussed in light of the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenums.

Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part in the work of this plenum and in delivering an instructive speech he presented constructive proposals regarding strengthening and broadening the womens' movement in the country and specified the future direction of the DWOA councils' work in light of the decisions of the 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

Comrade Najibullah presented to the plenum the recommendation of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau to change the name of the DWOA to the Nationwide Council of Afghanistan Women which was approved by those attending the session.

The plenum unanimously elected Comrade Feroza, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and commander of the Revolutionary Guard of Golkhaneh village, Kabul city, as chairperson of the Nationwide Council; Sohayla (Sediq), physician at the medical science academy of the DRA Armed Forces as first deuty chairman; Soltana Omed, as deputy chairman and acting head of the Secretariat; and Shafiqa Rqzmenda, as deputy chairman of the Nationwide Council of Afghanistan Women.

The plenum unanimously endorsed and approved the membership of 120 persons, belonging to various social strata of the fraternal nationalities and tribes residing in the country, in the composition of the executive delegation of the Nationwide Council of Afghanistan Women. [passage omitted]

At the end of the plenum's work a draft resolution was read out which was then approved.

Najmoddin Kawiani, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee in charge of the organization department, members of the PDPA Central Committee, officials from social organizations, from departments of the Kabul city council and from provincial councils of the Nationwide Council of Afghanistan Women, took part in the work of the plenum.

Counterrevolutionary Elements Reportedly 'Crushed'
LD061720 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] BAKHTAR reported that as a result of successful operations carried out with the cooperation of our toiling compatriots in the environs of Vardak Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed.

Two communication units, two DShK's, a mortar, and several antitank and antipersonnel mines were seized by the Armed Forces. An ammunition depot also was completely destroyed as a result of these operations.

According to another report, as a result of recent combat operations in the environs of Shenwari major-district, a number of counterrevolutionary elements who had been disrupting that region's peoples' peaceful lives were crushed.

A launching unit of surface-to-surface missiles and a DShK were destroyed and 10 surface-to-surface missiles and a large amount of ammunition and hand grenades were seized by the Armed Forces.

Minister Says PRC Has Helipad in Sumdorong Chu

BK061622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.R. Narayanan, disclosed in the Rajya Sabha today that the Chinese have built a ramshackle helicopter landing place at the Sundorong Chu valley in Arunachal Pradesh. Some helicopters have already landed there and taken off. This is a later development after the external affairs minister made the statement on the subject on the 1st of this month. Mr Narayanan was giving clarifications to members on the government on the 18th of last month regarding the recent Chinese intrusion into Indian territory.

The minister said the matter was discovered on the 4th of this month. When several opposition members asked the minister why the government took no notice of the information given by the Arunachal Pradesh chief minister about the helipad, the minister said the matter was checked up earlier and no trace of such a helipad was found.

Referring to a recent talk, the minister said the Chinese incursion had taken place on 16 June. Protests were lodged both in Delhi and Beijing. Due to political and diplomatic consideration, the government could not inform Parliament about the matter.

Home Minister Says Bangladesh To Take Back Refugees

BK071853 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] Bangladesh has agreed to take back all the tribal refugees who have crossed over to Tripura. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply today that the matter was taken up with the Bangladesh president during his recent visit to India. He said over 25,000 refugees had entered Tripura till the end of last month.

In reply to another question, the minister said there is no report of clandestine inflow of Chinese arms into Arunachal Pradesh or Nagaland. Nothing definite has been established about the recent supply of arms and training of the so-called Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland.

The minister also ruled out construction of a wall all-along the border with Pakistan.

Defense Minister Views Balasore Missile Test Range

BK061645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Mr Arun Singh has described as politically motivated the campaign against the setting up of a national missile test facility at Balasore in Orissa. Replying to questions in the House, he said the site was selected after examining a total of 30 sites in the country. He asserted the missile test range is an absolute necessity to develop indigenous defense capability.

During the discussion on the question, there were angry exchanges between opposition and the treasury benches when opposition members referred to the representation against the missile test range being set up in Balasore.

Explosion Reported in Delhi 6 Aug; No Casualties

BK070301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] In Delhi, there was an explosion in (Hansalya) building near Connaught Place last evening. Fire brigade sources said there was some smoke and windowpanes of the building have been damaged. There were no casualties.

AFP Reports Bomb Suspected

BK061631 Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 6 (AFP) — An explosion suspected to have been caused by a bomb rocked a building housing the Bank of America offices here Wednesday, police said here.

No one was injured in the blast which took place at 8 p.m. (1430 GMT), bank sources said.

Police said they suspected that the explosion had been caused by a bomb, but they were also investigating the possibility that it was triggered by an electrical problem.

The bank's offices are housed in a building in the fashionable Connaught Place commercial district in the heart of the Indian capital.

No further details were immediately available.

ICO's Pirzada Ends Visit; Receives Gorbachev Message

BK061630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] Soviet leader Gorbachev has sent a special message to the Islamic Conference Organization secretary general, Sharifuddin Pirzada, on various important international matters, including the situation in Afghanistan and the Middle East. This was disclosed by Pirzada in an interview with Radio Pakistan's representative in Karachi today before his departure to Jeddah at the conclusion of his visit to Pakistan. He said this message was delivered to him by the Soviet ambassador in Islamabad. He said for the time being he could not give more details of the message, as this concerns those important matters which are of interest to the Islamic Conference Organization.

The Islamic Conference Organization secretary general said that he had detailed talks with President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on matters relating to the organization and also matters of interest to Pakistan.

Sharifuddin Pirzada said two important meetings will be held soon by the Islamic Conference Organization. A meeting of jurists of Islamic nations will be held in Jeddah by the middle of next month in which final shape will be given to the structure of the [formation] of international Islamic courts of justice, and human rights in Islam. The meeting of the Special Committee on Science and Technology will be held in Islamabad in November.

On the efforts for ending the Iran-Iraq war he said, the chairman of the Islamic Peace Committee and Gambian President Jawara will arrive in Jeddah within a few days where he will discuss steps on ending this war.

Afghanistan's Najibullah Cited on Soviet 'Assistance'

BK061540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] Najibullah, the present leader of the Soviet-backed Kabul administration referred to the loss to the national economy following the occupation by the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Speaking in Kabul on Monday, [4 August], he also admitted that the Kabul administration, set up with Soviet assistance, is unsuccessful in defeating mujahidin who are successfully struggling against the foreign domination of their country.

Khomeyni Hajj Address Speaks Against Enemies of Islam
LD071243 Tehran IRNA in English 1221 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 7, IRNA — The leader of Islamic Revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, here Thursday called on the regional governments to abandon their support for enemies of Islam and to not oppose interests of their peoples and those of the world oppressed.

In an address to the Hajj pilgrims, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran also called on heads of Muslim states to come to their senses and find solutions to problems facing the world Muslims who are under the supression of evil powers and whose natural resources are being plundered by them.

To this end, Imam Khomeyni's address said, the Islamic Republic of Iran should set a pattern for these heads of state since Iran freed itself from both blocs and treaded on the path of Islam.

The brave Iranian nation, relying on God, resisted against the heavily armed Iraqi enemy, welcomed martyrdom, but never surrendered to compromise, the message said.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is now in a powerful position and should not let the enemy to become equipped, the imam's statement said, adding that to reconcile with the Ba'thist regime of Iraq is the most flagrant treason against Islam and Muslims.

The committed Iranian people are determined to continue the war, even to the stage of martyrdom, Imam Khomeyni's address noted.

If the regional governments, instead of helping the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, had coordinated their stances with Iran, the Baghdad regime had been crushed in the early stages of its imposed war and people in Iran, Iraq, and the whole region were living a peaceful and fraternal life, the address said. [sentence as received]

The message urged Muslims to decisively confront traitors to Islam such as King Hassan of Morocco who had committed an unforgivable treason to Muslims, especially Arabs and Palestinians, by meeting the Zionist prime minister.

Imam Khomeyni also called on the Iranian Hajj pilgrims to treat other pilgrims in an Islamic manner and exhibit their revolutionary patience towards any misbehaviour.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution once again urged Iranian pilgrims to boycott purchasing U.S.-made goods since it was against Islam and further served to perpetuate interests of enemies of Islam.

Khamene'i Receives 1st Ambassador From Mali to Tehran
LD071321 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Excerpt] The first accredited ambassador of the Republic of Mali to the Islamic Republic of Iran met and conferred with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, today and presented his credentials. At this ceremony, the Mali ambassador conveyed the sincere greetings of his country's president, Moussa Traore, and praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive stances in supporting liberation movements, condemning apartheid, and fighting imperialism and Zionism. He added: The Islamic Revolution of Iran has opened up (?great new horizons) in the hearts of the Muslims of the world. We pray to God Almighty to grant success to this great revolution.

Then Khamene'i in his turn thanked the president of Mali for his warm greetings and stressed that the main factor for the similarity of the objectives of Iran and Mali is the two countries' deep respect for Islam and their anti-imperialist and antioppression stances. He welcomed the strengthening of relations and interests between the two countries in all fields. He said: In our foreign policy, we place special emphasis on establishing relations with Islamic and African nations and countries. [passage omitted]

Besharati Receives Departing Algerian Envoy
LD061504 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 6, IRNA — Departing Algerian ambassador to Iran Abdul Hamid Adjali met with Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali-Mohammad Besharati here Wednesday where he expressed thanks for the hospitality accorded him in Iran.

The departing ambassador said that during his four-year stay here he had witnessed the Iranian nation's bravery and their spirit of construction.

In response, Besharati expressed hope that Tehran-Algiers ties would further expand and described bilateral relations during Adjali's stay here as "fruitful" to both sides.

Besharati referred to the alignment of stances between Algeria, Iran, and Libya in the 79th OPEC ministerial meeting [number as received] in Geneva as "positive" and emphasized the need to continue cooperation in the forthcoming non-aligned summit due to be held in Harare next month.

Interior Minister Mohtashemi Receives Turkish Envoy
LD061833 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 6, IRNA — Turkey's ambassador in Tehran Ismet Birsel met with Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi here Wednesday and handed over to him an invitation to visit his country. The invitation, extended on behalf of Turkey's interior minister was accepted by Mohtashemi.

In the meeting various issues concerning the two Muslim countries were discussed.

Mohtashemi said that the superpowers are frightened of the solidarity and power of Muslims as a result of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He added that they (superpowers) have solved their disputes to counter the Muslim nations. Whereas, he added, they strongly have difference of opinion on global issues among themselves.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam said that it was essential that Muslims get united.

FRG Envoy Expresses Readiness To Expand Cooperation

LD070927 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 7, IRNA — The ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany here, A. Freitage, met with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday and announced his country's readiness for the expansion of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The ambassador hoped that during his mission in Iran he could take effective steps for the expansion of mutual relations and towards objectives of the two governments.

Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani emphasising expansion of bilateral relations said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was willing to continue and further strengthen the present friendly relations.

In another development, the newly-appointed commander of Ground Forces, Hoseyn Hasani-Sa'di, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani and reported on the situation of the Army, the Iraqi imposed war and future plans.

The Majlis speaker gave the necessary guidelines and praised services of former Ground Forces Commander Colonel 'Ali Seyyed Shirazi.

Upon the proposal of the Supreme Defense Council and approval of Imam Khomeyni, Colonel Hoseyn Hasani-Sa'di was appointed Ground Forces commander on Aug. 4.

Industries Minister Reports to Majlis Speaker

LD071039 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 7, IRNA — Minister of Industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i Wednesday reported to Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the situation of the country's industries and the projects under implementation.

The minister briefed the Majlis speaker on ways to improve goods quality, establishment of a research township, situation of standard institute, and establishment of a university complex affiliated to the Industries Ministry.

In another development, members of the Central Council of the University Jihad (Mobilisation), and representatives of universities to the council met with the Majlis speaker, Wednesday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani referred to the formation of the university jihad as a good post-revolution measure to serve the society.

The Majlis speaker stressed that researches conducted and experiences gained so far, together with regular presence of revolutionary forces, saved universities from their previous situation.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, he said that traces of instability is visible in the Iraqi Army while the situation of Muslim combatants of Iran in the battlefields is as such that it disappoints enemies and is promising to the friends.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani called on the audience to give priority to the war issue as before and pay special attention to engineering units and military industries.

Oil Minister Holds Press Conference on Production Cut

LD070906 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 7 IRNA — Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here Wednesday that the shocking result of the Geneva agreement, made by 12 OPEC member countries, has put oil prices on an upward trend, expected to rise as high as $28 per barrel in future.

Speaking at a press conference on his return from Geneva, Aqazadeh noted that oil production cut would severely affect market prices.

The minister added that all OPEC members are bound to report to a supervising committee, headed by Nigerian Oil Minister and OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman, all details on their oil production, export, and even arrival of tankers at their countries' oil terminals.

On the reason for exclusion of Iraq from Iran's proposal, Aqazadeh said that the Iraqi regime has never sided with reasonable policies made by other OPEC members. Iraq, he added, has rather favoured policies of the West, led by the U.S.

Aqazadeh said that in the next OPEC meeting, to be held on October 6, more important issues such as price structure, omission of netback sale and special discount, and also approval of the permanent quotas for the members will be discussed.

The oil minister emphasized that Iran is capable of controlling Iraq's oil production, adding that Iraqi oil installations are within the range of Iranian artillery. "Baghdad can be checked once it violates the regulations."

In their official statement Tuesday, oil ministers of OPEC member countries unanimously agreed with Iran's proposal for lowering oil production ceiling to 16 million BPD, and observing 1984 quotas.

Political Council Discusses War, OPEC Meeting

LD071323 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 7, IRNA — The Political Council of Government in its Thursday session chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi discussed international and domestic political issues.

Latest developments inside Iraq and recent moves in that country were among subjects discussed by the council.

Also, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh reported on the recent OPEC meeting in Geneva.

Tehran Reports Mecca Pilgrims Count; Karrubi Arrives

LD070940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] The correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports from Mecca that Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, yesterday arrived in Mecca from Medina. The report adds that as of 1230 yesterday, Saudi time, more than 56,000 Iranian pilgrims have arrived in Mecca and Medina from various Iranian cities. The pilgrims are transported to Mecca every day. The report also says that as of noon yesterday 629,000 pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia from all over the world in order to take part in the Hajj rituals. The House of God was washed in a ceremony yesterday in the presence of Saudi Arabian officials and ambassadors of Islamic countries to Mecca.

Lebanese Shi'ite Communique Hails Efforts

LD070957 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] Beirut, Aug 7, IRNA — The Supreme Islamic Council of Lebanese Shi'ite Community in a communique issued here Wednesday appreciated the good office of the Islamic Republic of Iran for considering issues of Lebanese Muslims. It condemned the flattering policies of some Arab states towards the Zionist regime, especially the recent treacherous meeting of King Hassan of Morocco with Shim'on Peres.

The session convened here Wednesday, was presided over by the council's Vice-President Mohammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, and a number of other Lebanese officials including President of the Parliament, Husayn al-Husayni, and head of Amal movement, Nabih Birri.

During the session the participants discussed the recent visit of Shaykh Shams al-Din to the Islamic Republic of Iran and hailed Iran's efforts in handling the Lebanese Muslims' issues.

They also emphasized unity of all Muslims vis-a-vis current changes in the Arab world and denounced present discord among Arab countries which is resulted by their pursuit of Zionist regime and U.S. policies.

The communique also stressed that territorial integrity of Lebanon and unity of its people will guarantee its survival. According to the text, any solution to the Lebanese crisis is possible only through Syrian participation.

'Diplomatic Source' on Failed Coup Attempt in Iraq

LD062117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Excertp] According to a diplomatic source in Tehran, a military coup d'etat failed in Baghdad last night and the coup leader, who was said to have been a high-ranking Iraqi Army officer, was killed. According to this report a wave of arrests and desertions by the Iraqi military has confronted the Army with new conditions [as heard]. This report has not yet been confirmed by international agencies.

IRGC Head Views 'Markedly Better' Military Stance

LD061632 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] Semnan, Semnan Prov., Aug 6, IRNA — Commander of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i said here Wednesday [6 August] that Iran's standing in the imposed war is markedly better this year than before.

Reza'i said that operations since the liberation of Al-Faw, by Iranian Muslim combatants on February 11, have caused grave problems for Iraqi forces. He added that the Islamic Republic would continue to inflict more decisive blows on the enemy.

The IRGC commander said that actual combat time for the past six months was 140 days. He noted that more victories were achieved during this period than over a two-year period earlier in the war.

Reza'i said that successive operations of the Iranian Muslim combatants have weakened and frightened enemy forces.

The IRGC commander said that this year Iran will unleash its awesome military might on the enemy with the ultimate aim of forcing him to surrender.

Tehran on Bush Visit, Soviet Mideast Role

NC070949 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush ended his visit to the Middle East without having achieved any specific results. His visit took place while the world was focusing its attention on the recent meeting between Shim'on Peres and King Hassan II. It also followed the closure of 25 PLO offices in the Jordanian capital after King Husayn's efforts for cooperation with 'Arafat collapsed. It has been said that the meeting between the Israeli prime minister and the Moroccan king did not yield any results. However, the fact that this meeting has even taken place and the cold and indifferent response it generated from most Arab countries shows that the current atmosphere is more favorable for U.S. political maneuvers than ever before.

Before George Bush embarked on his trip, U.S. officials had repeatedly announced that he would not be carrying a specific plan to end the Middle East crisis. The objective of his trip was simply to become further acquainted with the views of leaders in Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. In view of the talks in Morocco however, what observers witnessed was an attempt on the part of Bush to take this opportunity to set up a meeting between the Jordanian king and the prime minister of the Zionist regime. Nevertheless, at the end of his visit to Jordan, Bush implied that he had been unable to achieve any specific results. The Jordanian

prime minister also emphasized the fact that the Bush visit had not led to any progress in the situation.

The only outcome of the U.S. vice president's trip was possibly a further impetus to Egyptian-Israeli discussions on the Tabah issue. The regimes in Cairo and Tel Aviv both claim sovereignty over this 1 sq km area located south of the Sinai desert and bordering occupied Palestine. The propaganda campaign about the Tabah issue is obviously unrealistic. However, this issue is a key to solving other problems; namely, U.S. financial aid to Egypt and Israel and clarification of the fate of the West Bank.

George Bush, who is the Republican Party candidate in the next U.S. presidential elections, visited Muslim-inhabited eastern Palestine in a bid to gain Zionist approval. He also applied more pressure on leaders in Cairo and Tel Aviv to agree on a solution to the Tabah issue as a noteworthy outcome of his trip. However, the stand adopted by Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who will become prime minister next fall, showed that it will be some time before a final decision on this issue is made.

In view of all this, one can point to a clear aspect of Bush's visit. At the end of his talks in Egypt on Tuesday, he announced that an agreement might possibly be reached during the next 24 hours on the Tabah issue, and that the Egyptian Government has asked U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy to increase his efforts and shuttles between Cairo and Tel Aviv. With regard to what he has described as peace talks, Bush affirmed that direct discussions between conflicting sides in the Middle East can lead to an international conference capable of achieving progress. He thus clarified that the United States will agree on an international conference only if direct talks are held between the conflicting sides prior to its convocation; that is, talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and between Israel and Syria. He emphasized that an international conference can be held in the presence of the permanent members of the UN Security Council if Syria does not participate.

The request to hold a conference that would discuss ways to solve the Middle East problem has been one of the unchanging proposals put forth by the Soviet Union and most of the Arab countries which have signed the Fes agreement. Until now, such a conference has been stymied by flagrant opposition from the United States and Israel. However, a change in the stand of these two states can be perceived. In other words, Washington and Tel Aviv have accepted the principle of holding this conference although they have a different view from Arab countries on how it should be done.

Israel considers the normalization of its relations with the Soviet Union, which should also solve the problem of the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, to be a prerequisite for this conference. The United States, however, has always maintained that an agreement to hold an international conference and the Soviet Union's participation in it should not lead to a strengthening of Moscow's influence in the Middle East. Such problems must be viewed within the general framework of relations between the White House and the Kremlin and between the East and the West. In other words, U.S. agreement on an international conference should not be considered apart from general agreements between Washington and Moscow.

During the last few years, and especially after the election of Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union has tried to move out of its isolation in the Middle East and to establish or consolidate diplomatic relations with more Arab countries. There have been noteworthy signs of this. Diplomatic relations have been established with the GCC, the UAE, and the Sultanate of Oman. Murmurs can be heard on a revival of relations with Saudi Arabia as well. The Soviet Union has also strengthened its relations with Egypt, elevating these relations to the ambassadorial level in 1984. The Soviet Union has become more active in Lebanon. Its support for maintaining UN forces in the south vis-a-vis pressure from the United States and France exemplifies the Soviet Union's interest in increasing its influence in this country. As for Israel, preparations are now underway in the Finnish capital of Helsinki for talks between Israeli and Soviet delegations. Moscow has agreed to allow the family of a dissatisfied Soviet Jew to immigrate to occupied Palestine as a gesture of goodwill toward these talks. It should also be noted that the Soviet Union's new UN representative was that country's former ambassador to Egypt. According to political observers, this appointment shows the increased attention which the Soviet Union is focusing on Middle East issues.

Conditions in the Middle East and on an international level have now become more favorable for both the United States and the Soviet Union to consider holding an international conference. Further progress may be achieved during a possible meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan.

Despite current regional developments, it still cannot be said that the Middle East crisis will be solved as the United States or the Soviet Union want it to be. The Arab countries must now maintain vigilance with respect to Muslims in the region more than ever before. The Islamic awakening and expansion in the region can upset the present situation and spoil the calculations by both East and West. The destiny of the imposed war, which had a special place in Bush's Middle East talks, can play a major role in determining or upsetting future calculations. In other words, even though the United States and the Soviet Union have begun new efforts, it is clear that the time when they were the ones able to make all the decisions has ended.

Labor Ministry Official on Work, Foreign Currency

LD281809 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA — Employees of workshops which may temporarily close down due to shortage of foreign exchange will be covered by the government compensation and will not experience a drastic change in their income and employment, said the deputy labour minister for projects and planning, Siavosh Samie, here Monday. The Labour Ministry official who is also in charge of the Employment Committee of the Economic Mobilization Headquarters, added that a large portion of the country's economic activities do not soley depend on foreign exchange. These activities can continue without any need for foreign exchange, he added.

In terms of employment in industries, he said that production in those factories which need imported raw materials and foreign exchange may become unstable for some time.

However, he added, out of the nearly ten million work force engaged in factories and workshops throughout the country, only 650,000 are working in industrial workshops with employing capacity of more than 10 workers. Moreover the workshops employing over ten workers are those which are in need of foreign exchange the most.

Therefore, Samie told IRNA, it is expected that effects of foreign exchange on employment in industrial sector will be very limited. For those industries which need government support, the government has made the necessary arrangements, he added.

One of the ways to overcome unemployment in industrial units, he said, is shifting employment of the workers.

Industries such as automobile plants, home appliances, and a number of chemical and textile factories, may suffer slight problems because of foreign exchange limitations. However, under the government policy and the Employment Committee of the Labour Ministry, problems will be minimized.

He added that figures on unemployment given by irresponsible individuals, are totally false. On employment opportunities in development projects such as road building and construction, efforts are underway to create more jobs by using resources of banks and institutions such as the Foundation of the Oppressed.

Majlis Bill Punishes Hoarders, Profiteers

LD312047 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, deputies at today's Islamic Majlis session approved a draft bill increasing punishment for hoarders and profiteers. The draft bill was raised and approved in the presence of Guardian Council members. The bill states: Any person who hoards foodstuff, wheat, barley, oats, raisins, dates, vegetable oils, or shortening or animal fat, will be considered a hoarder and will receive the punishment of a fine of 2 to 10 times the price of the hoarded goods, plus up to 74 lashes. If a person hoards essential consumer goods above his annual requirement with the objective of raising the price, or creating a shortage by refusing to sell to the public and the government — when the government declares its requirements — will be condemned as a hoarder and will receive the same punishment. Partners in such offences will also receive the same punishment as the hoarder. If the hoarders are employees of government or state companies they will be dismissed and never again allowed to apply for any state department post.

On the basis of another article of the bill, those committing the crimes indicated in this article for the first time will be fined between two and five times the price of the commodity. The fine will increase from 5 to 10 times for second offenders. Should they commit the crime for a third time they will be fined the same as second offenders, and in addition will lose their licences; those without a trade licence will receive up to 74 lashes. Offenders will also receive similar sentences for selling manufactured goods and commodities above their fixed price; selling poor quality bread; requesting wages or payment above the regular rate; profiteering transactions under normal prices [as heard]; resorting to practices that would raise the stated fixed price; using poor quality raw materials; selling products when using faulty scales; transfering rationed goods from one region of the country to another without the government's permission. This also applies to guild officials refusing to present commodities for sale in accordance with guild regulations, refusing to issue a bill, or issuing a false bill.

On the basis of another article, if such offences are committed with the intention of confronting the regime, the offender will be considered to be a mohareb [a person opposed to God] and will receive the deserved punishment.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Arvand River Positions Shelled

LD061626 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pro., Aug 6, IRNA — At least 23 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and seven bulldozers and loaders, two anti-aircraft guns, and seven bunkers of theirs destroyed in the western bank of the Arvand River Tuesday when their positions were shelled by Iranian forces.

Over the same period the city of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan were hit by Iraqi long range artillery fire as a result of which some houses and shops were damaged.

Iraqi Plane Downed in Esfahan Raid

LD071027 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Text] Esfahan, Aug 7, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed two industrial centers and their nearby working-class areas in Esfahan Thursday, slightly damaging the establishments and injuring a number of civilians.

One of the Iraqi aircraft while intending to leave the city's airspace was downed by the fire of anti-aircraft artillery. No information is yet available on the fate of the pilot of the downed plane.

Meanwhile, following the Iraqi air raid on Esfahan, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) stressed that no doubt Iran's retaliatory measures would give a decisive response to the aggressor Iraqi regime.

"We have given the final notice to the enemy but it persists on its aggression," the spokesman said.

He once again called on the Iraqi people to evacuate military, industrial, and economic centers and their nearby areas in order to remain safe of the revolutionary wrath of the Muslim forces of Iran.

Communique No 2555

LD061634 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 6 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 6., IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected seven cargo ships and oil tankers sailing under foreign

flags in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed the ships to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq, said a miltary communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2555 said that several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 bunkers, four light as well as heavy vehicles, and some gun emplacements of theirs destroyed throughout the war fronts Tuesday.

Over the same period, an Iraqi naval base and a joint headquarters of enemy forces in southeast Iraq was targeted by Iranian artillery fire.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three enemy vehicles destroyed in parts of the southern fronts Tuesday as they were shelled by Iranian gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

In the western fronts, the communique said, Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi concentration centers destroying eight enemy bunkers and setting fire to a heavy vehicle of theirs. Movement of Iraqi troops in Sumar was also checked.

The communique said that Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered Iraqi positions and heavily shelled enemy concentration centers in the southern fronts including Hoseyniyeh inflicting casualties and damage on them and silencing their fire.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts Tuesday raging more heavily in Hajj 'Umran and Panjwin as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements set ablaze, the communique said.